



December 13, 2019

Mayor Jerry Demings
Orange County Board of County Commissioners
201 S Rosalind Ave
Orlando FL 32801

Dear Mayor Demings:

It is with enthusiasm that the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metro Orlando, writes in support of the proposed Split Oak Minimization Alternate Route, which is the new preferred route for an eastward extension from Osceola Parkway. As you are aware this item will appear on the County Commission agenda, December 17, 2019.

This proposed Osceola Parkway extension has been identified as a need in several local, long-range plans and master plans to help connect residents and visitors in the region and reduce congestion. This future connection is included in the long-range transportation plan of the Central Florida Expressway Authority (CFX). Furthermore, the extension was identified as a need in 2015 and included in the plan, unanimously voted on by the Governor's East Central Florida Transportation Task Force. This group was responsible for looking at our region's transportation network and identifying "big picture" needs for our community for the next 50 years. The task force included many members of our environmental community and the group's final report was unanimously supported.

With continued growth, the ability to extend improved mobility within the region is a rare opportunity to develop the east-west route prior to development creating obstacles for a successful multi-modal corridor. As the voice of our Hispanic business community, HCCMO supports this extension as it favorably impacts the mobility of our growing Hispanic community, especially within Orange and Osceola Counties where Hispanic populations have had double digit growth year after year.

Additionally, this proposed route also offers a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to designate significant and additional lands for conservation in perpetuity. It will create an expansion of conservation areas 25 times greater than the acreage the recommended Osceola Parkway Extension would impact Split Oak. This will result in significantly more land will be conserved and protected for future generations.

For these and many other reasons we ask that the Orange County Commission favorably consider supporting the preferred Split Oak Minimization Alternate Route and the Lake Nona Alternate Route for the Osceola Parkway Extension and help carry this project forward to the Florida's Communities Trust.

Thank you for your continued service to our community. Please let us know if you have any questions or if we may every be of any service to you.

Sincerely,

Gaby Ortigoni, President
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metro Orlando

Cc:
Commissioner Betsy Vanderley
Commissioner Christine Moore
Commissioner Mayra Uribe
Commissioner Maribel Gomez Cordero
Commissioner Emily Bonilla
Commissioner Victoria Siplin

"Our mission is to provide leadership and support the economic development of the Hispanic business community of Metro Orlando"

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Gaby Ortigoni
President

2019/2020

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